

CLAIMS

1. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to a nominal flow format constituted by a succession of frames each comprising at least one I block corresponding to a complete digital I image and at least one N block corresponding to the differences between a digital N image and at least one other image, characterized in that there is performed prior to the transmission to the client's equipment an analysis of the flow in order to generate a first modified flow presenting the format of a nominal flow and presenting modified N blocks and a second flow of any format comprising the digital information required for the reconstruction of said modified blocks, then of separately transmitting the two flows thereby generated from the server to the destination equipment, and in that there is calculated on the destination equipment a synthesis of a flow in the nominal format as a function of said first flow and said second flow.

2. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one N block corresponds to an N image calculated by movement compensation in relation to the preceding N or I image. The block and the image are then referred to as P block and image (predicted).

3. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to either one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one N block corresponds to an N image calculated by movement compensation in relation to the preceding and following P or I images. The block and the image are then referred to as B block and image (bidirectional).

4. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the nominal flow format is defined by the MPEG standard.

5. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to claim 5, characterized in that said first flow presents modified P blocks.

6. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said first flow presents modified B blocks.

7. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said analysis can determine the N images to modify.

8. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the transmission of said first flow is implemented via a physically distributed material support [CD-ROM, hard disk].

9. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the transmission of said first flow is implemented via a broad band network [cable, satellite, digital airways, optical fiber].

10. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the transmission of said first flow is implemented via a broad band network of the DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) type.

11. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the transmission of said first flow is implemented via a LRL (local radio loop) network.

12. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the transmission of said second flow is implemented via a switched telephonic network (analog or digital).

13. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the transmission of said second flow is implemented via a DSL type network (Digital Subscriber Line).

14. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the transmission of said second flow is implemented via a mobile telephonic network using the GSM, GPRS or UMTS standards.

15. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the transmission of said second flow is implemented via a LRL network (local radio loop).

16. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of claims 9 to 11, characterized in that the transmission of said second flow is implemented via a broad band network of the same type as the network used for said first flow.

17. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of claims 9 to 11, characterized in that the transmission of said second flow is implemented via the same broad band network as the network used for said first flow.

18. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the transmission of said second flow is encrypted.

19. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the transmission of said first flow is encrypted.

20. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the reconstruction is contingent on a payment.

21. Method for the distribution of video sequences according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the reconstruction can be authorized by a consultation of a private copy requested by the client.

22. Equipment for the creation of a video flow for the implementation of the method according to claim 1, comprising at least one multimedia server containing the original video sequences and characterized in that it includes a device for the analysis of the video flow originating from said server for generating the two flows.

23. Equipment for the creation of a video flow according to claim 22, characterized in that it comprises a memory for recording a “private copy” marker indicating for each sequence the rights of each user: private copy that can be watched an unlimited number of times, private copy that can be watched a limited number of time and indication of that number, private copying prohibited.

24. Equipment for the creation of a video flow according to claim 22 or 23, characterized in that the two flows generated can be dedicated to a single equipment unit, a group of equipment units or all equipment units.

25. Equipment for the management of a video flow for the implementation of the method according to claim 1, comprising a standard flow decoder, at least one recording interface [hard disk] intended for storing the content of said first flow and at least one display interface, characterized in that it includes a means for the reconstitution of the original flow from the two flows.

26. Equipment for the management of a video flow according to claim 25, characterized in that said means is a software program application installed on the equipment.

27. Equipment for the management of a video flow according to claim 25, characterized in that said means is an electronic device.

28. Equipment for the management of a video flow according to one of claims 25 to 27, characterized in that in the case of installation on a computer, said means uses a resource specific to the product [card] in order to prevent the copying of the temporary information onto a permanent support.

29. Equipment for the management of a video flow according to one of claims 25 to 28, characterized in that said recording interface also stores a “private copy” marker in relation to said first flow indicating for said sequence the rights of the user: private copy that can be watched an unlimited number of times, private copy that can be watched a limited number of times and indication of that number, private copying prohibited.

30. Equipment for the management of a video flow according to one of claims 25 to 29, characterized in that it comprises a smart card reader enabling identification of the client when he wants to consult a private copy of a program.

31. Equipment for the management of a video flow for the implementation of the method according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a first means constituted by a personal computer unit of a communication interface for receiving the video flow originating from a communication network or a physical support reader and equipped with at least one recording means [hard disk] intended for storing the content of said first flow, and a second means constituted by a decoder comprising a display interface, means for communication with said principal computer for receiving said first flow transmitted by the computer and communication means for receiving said second flow, as well as a means for the recomposition of the original flow from the two flows.

32. Equipment for the management of a video flow according to claim 31, characterized in that said means for the recomposition of the flow is a software application installed solely on said decoder.

33. Equipment for the management of a video flow according to claim 31, characterized in that said means for the recomposition of the flow is an electronic device installed solely on said decoder.

34. System for the transmission of a video flow according to claims 1 to 30, characterized in that it comprises an equipment unit for the production of a video flow, at least one equipment unit for the management of a video flow and at least one communication network between the production equipment and the management equipment unit(s).